



February 15, 2008

Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and
Social Workers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: CenterPoint Corporate Park Conference Center
The Commons Building, Conference Room
20809 72nd Avenue South
Kent, Washington 98032

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl Greenberg, LMFT, Chair
Susan Bogni, Public Member
Philip Brown, LICSW, LMFT, Ph.D.
Alison Hadley, LICSW
Joseph Price, LMFT, LMHC, Ph.D.
Lisa Erickson, LMHC, Vice-Chair
Christine Bear, LMHC
Patty Matsumoto, LMHC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joyce Gaidies, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Nicoloff, Executive Director
Leslie Magby, Acting Program Manager

AAG PRESENT: Elizabeth Baker, Assistant Attorney General

On February 15, 2008 the Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes (committee) met in Kent, Washington at CenterPoint Corporate Park Conference Center, 20809 72nd Avenue South, The Commons Building, Conference Room, in Kent Washington 98032. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the meeting agenda was e-mailed to members of the Licensed Counselors Listserv.

OPEN SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER – Carl Greenberg, LMFT, Chair

9:10 a.m.

1.1 Committee members introduced each other to include new members, Christine Bear and Patty Matsumoto. Alison Hadley announced it would be her last meeting.

1.2 The agenda was approved with the following amendments:

- Item 4.2 was changed to reflect Robert Nicoloff as the presenter.
- Item 12 was tabled until the next meeting.
- Item 15 was discussed as Item 4.5.

1.3 The August 24, 2007 meeting minutes were approved with the following amendments:

- Spelling errors were corrected in Item 3 and Item 5.2.

2. DISCUSSION AND ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR – Carl Greenberg, LMFT, Chair

Committee members voted and elected Philip Brown as the new Vice-Chair.

3. REGISTERED COUNSELOR UPDATE

Robert Nicoloff discussed the legislation that modifies standards for counselors. The Registered Counselor credential is going to be abolished in 2010, with seven new credentials being created. There will be a separate credential created for private practice counselors, which the title will later be determined. There will be a limited grandfathering process for counselors who have had a certain amount of experience and training. Continuing education requirements, definitions, and standards of approved supervision will be determined by rules.

Mr. Nicoloff explained to committee members they would be assisting the department in implementing and creating standards for the new credentials.

Senate Bill 6456 defines a mental disorder as “a score of sixty or lower on the global assessment of functioning (GAF) scale as set forth in the 1994 edition of the diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, 4th edition.” Some committee members felt the GAF score is subjective and an arbitrary number. Committee members’ concern is the ability of counselors to use the GAF without official training. They feel strongly that specific coursework and training of the GAF should be a core training requirement for future counselors.

Regarding a title for the private practice counselor credential, limited professional counselor (LPC) was a potential title. Although, LPC is defined as a Master’s level counselor nationally, which would ultimately cause confusion for the public. Laura Groshong, LISW explained to committee members the Registered Counselor Workgroup spent over fifty hours in making recommendations for titles.

The terms “supervision” and “consultation” are both used in House Bill 2674. The language used in the Senate Bill is “consultation.” The final language will be determined in the rulemaking process. Committee members felt there is a strong difference between supervision and consultation. In the past, Assistant Attorney Generals have advised there really is no difference. **ACTION** – Elizabeth Baker, AAG will research the distinction between consultation and supervision and report at the next meeting.

After review of the proposed legislation, in interest of patient safety, the committee would like to make the following recommendations:

1. In the interest of patient safety, the new title for counselors in private practice should be certified alternative counselor rather than limited professional counselor (LPC). As LPC is a national credential for licensed counselors at the Master’s degree level and the common meaning of LPC is licensed professional counselor.
2. In the interest of patient safety, the term “supervision” should be used in rule language rather than “consultation” because the term supervision is deemed to be a higher level of experience than consultation.
3. In the interest of patient safety, the registered counselor category should be abolished, effective July 1, 2010.
4. In the interest of patient safety, the definitions of mental disorders and scope of practice are not adequate. The definition of mental disorders should encompass emotional disorders as well, as emotional disorders are significant in clients. Under the new proposed scope of practice, it is questionable whether private practice counselors would be able to recognize mental or physical disorders without specialized training.
5. In the interest of patient safety, the global assessment of functioning should be addressed and documented as part of the minimum supervision requirements.

Phil Brown moved to send the above recommendations to Laurie Jenkins, Assistant Secretary. The motion passed.

4. MANAGEMENT REPORTS

4.1 Committee members reviewed current licensing statistics provided by Leslie Magby:

Marriage & Family Therapist

Active	1,018
Expired	226
Retired	2
Pending	40

Mental Health Counselors

Active	4,429
Expired	883
Retired	11
Pending	215

Social Workers

Active	3,081
Expired	610
Retired	4
Pending	217

Total Licensed Counselors

Active	8,528
Expired	1,719
Retired	17
Pending	472

Registered Counselors

Active	18,424
Expired	39,700
Retired	224
Pending	239

4.2 Committee members reviewed the current disciplinary statistics:

OPEN CASE STEP REPORT
January 29, 2008

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Investigation	6
Case Disposition	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES:	8

MENTAL HEALTH

Investigation	23
Case Disposition	14
SOA to SOC	1
Adjudication Process	5
TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES:	43

SOCIAL WORKER

Intake and Assessment	1
Investigation	15
Case Disposition	7
SOC – Receive Response	1
Adjudication Process	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES:	26

TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSED COUNSELOR OPEN CASES: 77

REGISTERED COUNSELORS

Intake and Assessment	9	
Investigation	68	73
Case Disposition	4	
SOA – Receive Response	1	
STID – Signed	5	
SOC – Receive Answer	7	
Produce Scheduling Order	27	
Adjudication Process	2	
Prepare Default Order		
TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES:	196	

4.3 Leslie Magby updated committee members of current recruitment efforts for three public members and a Licensed Advanced Social Worker. Recruitment for these positions will be ongoing until the department receives interested applicants.

- 4.4** The budget reports were shared for all three licensed counselor professions. January 2008 program balances were as follows:

Marriage and Family Therapists	\$ 127, 180
Mental Health Counselors	(\$ 222, 766)
Social Workers (LASW & LICSW)	\$ 8, 938

- 4.5** Robert Nicoloff explained there are many legislative issues relating to boards and commissions and disciplinary processes. Currently, there are none that affect advisory committees.
- 4.6** Leslie Magby shared information regarding the board member training provided by the Association of Social Work Boards in 2008. Unfortunately, the training does not pertain to current committee members based on the eligibility requirements.

5. RULES UPDATE

- 5.1** Leslie Magby reported the sexual misconduct rules (WAC 246-809-049) were adopted and the CR103 was filed to implement the rules. The sexual misconduct rules promote a higher level of patient safety.
- 5.2** Leslie Magby provided an update on the proposed rule changes for the examination for licensed mental health counselors (WAC 246-809-240.) On March 5, 2008 a rules hearing will be held at the Department of Health, Room 152/153, 310 Israel Road Southeast, Tumwater Washington 98501. The proposed changes would allow applicants to apply directly to the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC) to take the examination, while still gaining their required post-graduate supervision hours.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

The committee will hear comments from the public and the public may request items to be placed on a future meeting agenda.

7. HSQA RESTRUCTURE

Robert Nicoloff provided an update to committee members regarding the Health Systems Quality Assurance (HSQA) reorganization. Mr. Nicoloff explained HSQA's mission to protect and improve the health of people in Washington. The restructure is designed to increase the department's efficiency and may begin the first steps of implementation in July 2008. Committee members had no questions regarding the reorganization.

8. LICENSED COUNSELORS BROCHURE

Robert Nicoloff shared a letter from a concerned counselor regarding the use of the brochure that was developed by the committee. Committee members did not feel it was necessary to revise the brochure. It was created as a general brochure and is optional for licensed counselors to give to clients.

9. DISCUSSION OF WAC 246-809-130(3)

1:00 p.m.

Committee members discussed WAC 246-809-130(3) which states that applicants who have completed a master's program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (COAMFTE) may be credited with five hundred hours of direct client contact and one hundred hours of formal meetings with an approved supervisor.

The committee discussed this WAC in relation to Antioch University and the term, "accreditation." Committee members reviewed an exchange of letters between the Department of Health, Antioch University, and the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. Committee members reviewed past correspondence between the department, Antioch University, and COAMFTE.

Phil Brown excused himself from the discussion based on his previous relationship with Antioch University.

Paul David, Ph.D., Chair of Antioch University Seattle's Child, Couple, and Family Therapy (CCFT) Program provided a written statement to committee members. The statement expressed the accreditation status of Antioch's CCFT Program, deemed by the Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education. In July 2005, Antioch University Seattle received "candidacy" status of accreditation. Scott Edwards, LMFT feels the idea of "candidacy status" being equivalent to "accreditation" is misleading and can be confusing.

Committee members heard emotional testimonials from several students who have attended Antioch University Seattle. The students shared their internship experience and expressed their concern of not being granted credit for these hours to apply towards licensure.

Carl Greenberg moved to recommend to the department that Antioch University's accreditation status be acknowledged and their students be granted hours to apply towards licensure. The motion passed.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

The items listed under the consent agenda (informational items) are considered routine agency matters and were approved by a single motion of the committee without separate discussion. No items were removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

10.1 January issue of "The Sentinel News for Department Employees."

10.2 "We Aspire" Health Professions Quality Assurance January 2008 monthly report.

10.3 DOH Top Accomplishments for 2007.

11. ASWB SUPERVISION TASK FORCE

Alison Hadley reported on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) task force meeting she attended. ASWB's focus is to identify all the necessary qualifications that should be included in supervision requirements. Ms. Hadley passed around literature from the task force meeting for committee members to review.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADVANCED GENERALIST EXAMINATION CONTENT & CLINICAL EXAMINATION CONENT OUTLINE

Item 12 was tabled until the next meeting.

13. DISCUSSION ON EYE MOVEMENT DESENSITIZATION AND REPROCESSING (EMDR)

The department has been getting an increasing number of calls related to this treatment and it's validity in treating clients. Alison Hadley informed committee members the therapy is somewhat controversial still. This form of therapy originated in 1989 by Francine Shapiro. The most efficient use of EMDR is for trauma although it can be successful in treating other conditions. Ms. Handley is certified in EMDR and has done several trainings, included a jointly-sponsored training with the FBI.

Scott Edwards, LMFT informed committee members that consumers need to be aware if they are seeking EMDR therapy, to make certain the provider is certified or has had specialized training in EMDR.

14. TWO YEAR RENEWAL CYCLE

Item 14 was tabled until the next meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Meeting Schedule for 2008:

May 2, 2008 - Kent, Washington

September 5, 2008 - Kent, Washington

December 12, 2008 - Kent, Washington

Submitted by:

Leslie Magby, Acting Program Manager
Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists
and Social Worker Advisory Committee

Approved by:

Carl Greenberg, LMFT, Chair
Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists
and Social Worker Advisory Committee